

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all versions of previous claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for establishing a healthy bacterial flora in females throughout life, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a first probiotic *Lactobacillus iners* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said *Lactobacillus iners* is administered orally or vaginally.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said bacterial flora is gastrointestinal or urogenital flora.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising administering a second probiotic organism.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said second probiotic organism is a *Lactobacillus* selected from the group consisting of *L. rhamnosus*, *L. acidophilus*, *L. fermentum*, *L. casei*, *L. reuteri*, *L. crispatus*, *L. plantarum*, *L. paracasei*, *L. jensenii*, *L. gasseri*, *L. cellobiosus*, *L. brevis*, *L. delbrueckii*, *L. helveticus*, *L. salivarius*, *L. collinoides*, *L. buchneri*, *L. rogosa*, or *L. bifidum*.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein a prebiotic is administered in conjunction with the second probiotic organism.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining a healthy urogenital flora in females prior to, during and after pregnancy, comprising orally administering an effective amount of a first probiotic *Lactobacillus iners* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9 further comprising administering a second probiotic organism.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said second probiotic organism is a *Lactobacillus* selected from the group consisting of *L. rhamnosus*, *L. acidophilus*, *L. fermentum*, *L. casei*, *L. reuteri*, *L. crispatus*, *L. plantarum*, *L. paracasei*, *L. jensenii*, *L. gasseri*, *L. cellobiosis*, *L. brevis*, *L. delbrueckii*, *L. helveticus*, *L. salivarius*, *L. collinoides*, *L. buchneri*, *L. rogosa*, or *L. bifidum*.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for restoring healthy urogenital flora in females in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of *Lactobacillus iners* isolated from said female and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said *Lactobacillus iners* is administered orally or vaginally.

14.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of Claims 7 or 15~~ Claim 7, wherein said prebiotic is inulin.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of Claims 7 or 15~~ Claim 7, wherein said prebiotic is fructo-oligosaccharides or milk.

19.-20. (Cancelled)